

## It's Not Fair:

*"It isn't the mountains ahead that wear you out; it's the grain of sand in your shoes." People seem to have awfully sandy shoes these days.*

I hate sand in my shoe! Imagine walking with a small grain of sand in your shoe! A grain of sand in your shoe becomes incredibly annoying. People have the capability to annoy each other in a similar manner! Just ask any sibling! "She's on my side!" He is pulling faces, again!" "It's not fair!!" is a regular complaint in our household.

What brings community down? What wears you down the most? For most it is not the big tasks or the hard yards, but the grain of sand in our shoe! Think about your spouse, your partner or even your child or a friend - it is the grain of sand in the relationship that wears you out! Those little itchy bitsy things that strains relationships and causes breakdown! Unless...

The first church was a rapidly expanding movement of a Christ following community. But even though they were passionate about their new found faith they quickly faced growing pains. Dr Luke in the book of Acts is quick to acknowledge that even such a new exploding movement is not immune against that little grain of sand in the shoe! The one group complained about the other: "It's not fair!"

Think about it for a moment. Wherever community is found, sand in the shoe will follow. And if not dealt with appropriately it will wear community down!

How did the apostles (leaders) respond? They did not jump in on the issue by playing judge. Instead we see them taking quite a different (than expected) approach.

The leaders responded within the framework of the perspective that comes with faith in Jesus Christ of Nazareth. This perspective enabled them to resolve more than just the issue at hand in a manner that reflects the greater glory of their Father and permeated God's love!

Their approach was not just to resolve the issue, but to put in place a communication network that will ensure future sand be resolved! And Dr. Luke includes this at the end: The movement increased rapidly!! Wouldn't you have signed up too?

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